

LOG OF MEETING

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared
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SUBJECT: Proposed amendments to the Standard for the
Flammability of Children's Sleepwear

DATE: April 2, 1996

PLACE: Consumer Product Safety Commission
Chairman's Conference Room

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Lawrence L. Hershman
Special Assistant to the Chairman

MEETING REQUESTED BY: Fred Rowan II, President and CEO
The William Carter Company

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES:

Ann Brown, Chairman
Lawrence L. Hershman, Special Assistant to the Chairman
Alan H. Schoem, Office of Compliance

WILLIAM CARTER COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES:

Joe Pacifico, Executive Vice President of Marketing
Steve Loftin, Director of Quality Assurance

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Michael R. Gale, AAMA
James V. Ryan, AARP
John Drasny, NIST (retired)

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The Carter representatives conveyed Mr. Rowan's regret at being unable to attend the meeting. They also stated that they were representing only the William Carter Company in the meeting. Mr. Pacifico gave a brief description of the 130-year-old company that is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Loftin expressed Carter's position that a continuation of the stay of enforcement is detrimental to safety, and that CPSC should adopt the proposed amendments. This represents a change in the company's position. Carter originally had opposed the proposed amendments. Mr. Loftin expressed his belief that cotton garments are misused and that guidelines are needed.

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Mr. Pacifico disagreed with the proposed amendment's exemption for sleepwear below the six-month size. He recommended either changing the exemption to the nine-month size or eliminating it entirely.

Mr. Loftin emphasized the firm's desire for clear and quick action by the Commission. Mr. Loftin said that most industry members want the issue of the proposed amendments resolved quickly, regardless of how the Commission votes.

Mr. Loftin said that there is a need to educate consumers about sleepwear and polyester. Mr. Loftin also said that some CPSC instruction materials are old and out of date. Mr. Pacifico said that the Carter Company would be glad to cooperate with CPSC with consumer education. Chairman Brown said that CPSC would like to work with the company in this regard.

In response to Chairman Brown's question about the company's change in position toward the amendments, Mr. Loftin replied that marketplace experience shows significant misuse. He stated that telephone calls by consumers to his company indicate that much of the public lacks understanding of the flammability ramifications of cotton versus polyester and loose-fitting versus tight-fitting sleepwear. Chairman Brown told the Carter representatives that she will be happy to meet with Carter and other representatives (after the Commission issues its decision on the proposed amendments) to discuss an information and education campaign.